

## REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 23, 2005 and the Advisory Action dated October 12, 2005. Claims 1, 2 and 4-13 remain pending, of which Claims 1, 8, 10 and 12 are in independent form. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention.

In the Office Action dated June 23, 2005, Claims 1, 2 and 4-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent No. 5,553,609 (*Chen*) in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,943,478 (*Dean*), 5,032,979 (*Hecht*) and 6,097,429 (*Seeley*). The attachment to the Advisory Action dated October 12, 2005 stated that the arguments set forth in the Amendment filed on September 23, 2005 were not persuasive, and that the foregoing rejections are maintained.

Initially, it is strongly believed that the version of the claims presented in the Amendment filed in September 23, 2005 was patentable over the art relied on in the June 23, 2005 Office Action for the reasons presented in the Remarks section of the Amendment filed on September 23, 2005. Nonetheless, without conceding the propriety of the outstanding rejection, Applicant now offers the following additional comments.

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 8, 10 and 12 in terms that even more clearly define the present invention. Applicant submits that these amended independent claims, together with remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is a server for controlling a plurality of clients. The server includes a control device and a notification device. The control device selects at least one client which has a privilege for controlling

an image sensing device remotely, prohibits unselected clients from controlling the image sensing device while the selected client is controlling the image sensing device, and allows the unselected clients to receive video information captured by the image sensing device. The notification device notifies a user captured by the image sensing device, as to which client is selected for controlling the image sensing device and which clients receive the video information captured by the image sensing device, in response to a request from the user.

One salient feature of Claim 1 is that the notification device notifies a user captured by the image sensing device, as to which client is selected for controlling the image sensing device and which clients receive the video information captured by the image sensing device. The cited references, alone or in combination, are not seen to disclose or suggest at least this feature of Claim 1.

*Chen* relates to a computer-based remote visual monitoring system intended for in-home patient care, using ordinary telephone lines. A supervisory center has access to patient records, and databases, for assigning patients to appropriate health care professionals, and for other tasks. Both master monitoring computers (linked to the control center) and slave monitoring computers (in patient homes) are provided, and real-time two-way communication is intended to be possible, via audio/visual equipment in the home. For example, scheduling information from the control center 22 (see Fig. 7) to a plurality of Master Monitoring Stations 24, where the scheduling information is used by the latter stations for linking with the Slave Monitoring Stations 26. However, nothing in *Chen* is seen to teach or suggest a notification device having features as recited in Claim 1.

*Dean* is cited in the office Action as teaching that an administrator who is different from a user can obtain report information identifying users that receive selected media services, and *Hecht* is cited as teaching using audit commands by superuser and generating an audit record for recorded events. However, even if *Dean* and *Hecht* be deemed to teach all that they are cited for, such would not provide what is missing from *Chen* as a reference against Claim 1. *Dean*, in particular, is silent as to control of an image sensing device. Also, since the *Hecht* server does not control the event that has occurred in the respective clients, the server cannot control any of the clients exclusively, and certainly does not teach or suggest giving control privilege to a single client along the lines recited in Claim 1. Nothing has been found or pointed out, in either *Dean* or *Hecht*, that would teach or suggest a notification device, as recited in Claim 1.

*Seeley* discusses a system in which, when a site control unit (SCU) at a site being monitored identifies input from a local sensor as indicating the presence of an intruder, the SCU can open a communications channel with a central station (cols. 8 and 9; Fig. 1). An operator at the central station can, if desired, instruct first one, and then another camera at the site to activate, and so conduct a remote walk-through of the site. Applicant has not found anything in *Seeley* what would teach or suggest that the operator, or any entity or element at the central station, or elsewhere, sends a request to be apprised as to which of plural remote clients has control of a remote camera. Indeed, *Seeley* also does not teach or suggest a notification device as recited in Claim 1, and thus *Seeley* does not remedy the deficiencies of *Chen*, *Dean* and *Hecht*.

Claim 1 is therefore believed to be clearly allowable over all the four cited patents, whether taken separately or in any possible combination (assuming that any such combination would even be a permissible one).

Independent Claims 8, 10, and 12 are method, storage medium, and system claims, respectively, corresponding to server Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable over those patents, whether considered separately or in combination, for the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

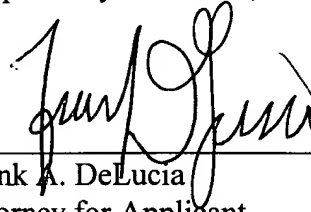
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank A. DeLucia", written over a horizontal line.

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